


# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: October 27, 2003

From :  Joseph L. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 17: Consideration of resolution authorizing a matching grant of Proposition 40 funds to the National Park Service (Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area) for completion of the Simi Hills vegetation mapping project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize a grant of Proposition 40 funds to the National Park Service in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 to the National Park Service, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Legislative Authority: Section 33211(c) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The National Park Service (NPS) has been developing a comprehensive vegetation map in the Santa Monica Mountains, Simi Hills, and nearby natural and urban-interface areas. At least \$840,000 have been provided by NPS to date, in staff time and contractor costs, but about ten more months of field work is needed to complete this important survey and mapping project, at an estimated cost of an additional \$495,000. Additional federal funding may be dependent on matching funds as a demonstration of local agency interest, and the Conservancy's small match would be extremely important to NPS in that regard.

The mapping project will greatly assist the work of the Conservancy by providing detailed baseline information for determining habitat connectivity issues, park planning, vegetation management, development impacts, and other resource management decisions. Please see the attached letter from Superintendent Woody Smeck for additional information on the project scope. Proposition 40 funds would be used to fund the \$100,000 grant.